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Season 1983-84

Match No. 5

**BOLTON
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Saturday 1st October 1983

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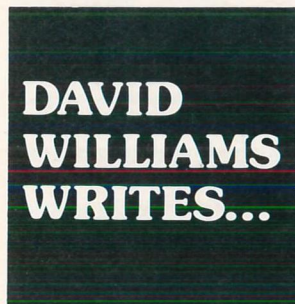
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KEEPING IN TOUCH

It was good to be top of the Third Division table last week end.... even though we were only there for a matter of hours.

It is always nice to win, especially away to the leading team. When the success puts you in top spot, it is even more satisfying.

All the players tuned into the Saturday lunchtime TV soccer programmes just to see the Third Division League table with Bristol Rovers there at the top. It is a while since it's happened.

AFTERNOON MATCHES

We slipped a little of course by the time the Saturday afternoon matches had been completed.

Actual positions do not mean a great deal at this stage of the season. The important thing is to be in touch with those at the top.

Our Friday night win at Orient certainly proved we are in that situation. One win swept us from 10th to first. It is when you know you are three wins away from top spot that concern starts to creep in.

TOP DOGS

Even at this stage of the season, being within striking distance of the top dogs makes a difference.

The fact we did become leaders overnight will make other teams and managers sit up and take notice of us – especially as we got there by beating the team who were then, on current form, the best in the division.

I was particularly pleased with the performance of Mike Barrett and Brian Williams. They finished the GFA Cup win over City strongly and carried on at Orient where they had left off at Ashton Gate.

MILK CUP

It is back to Milk Cup duty on Tuesday. If we couldn't get First Division opponents, Brighton, last year's FA Cup Finalists, were probably the next best thing.

Our job at the Goldstone Ground is to be still in contention for the start of the second leg – because I fancy us against anyone at Eastville.

There is nothing Rovers players look forward to more than a wintry night at Eastville when there is a big-match atmosphere at the stadium.

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE

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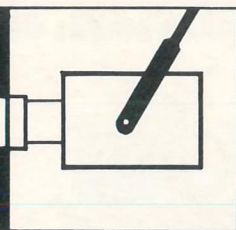
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Photographs: Alan Marshall (Club Photographer) and staff of Bristol United Press.

Matchday Spotlight

by Mike Allen



BRIGHT NEW-LOOK

Having parted company with many of the team that were members of the relegation side last season, player-manager John McGovern must be pleased with the way his new look Bolton Wanderers are shaping up.

They are up among the early pace setters, and that is despite suffering from a cruel run of injuries just before the season started that has left several key players on the side lines.

Amongst the victims, is McGovern himself. He is now back to fitness though, but has seen the side perform so well in his absence he cannot win back

his midfield place.

Goalkeeper John Platt, signed to replace Eire international Jim McDonagh underwent a cartilage operation, Eric Snookes, a summer signing from Rochdale and England youth international Wayne Foster are also on the treatment table.

For McGovern, relegation in the first year after his appointment was a bitter blow – although the writing had been on the wall just before he took over when the club finished only one place above the bottom three.

Bolton, four times winners of the F.A. Cup, including the first one to be held at Wembley, last found themselves in Division Three 10 years ago, when they departed as champions after a two year stay.

WHO'S WHO

SIMON FARNWORTH – goalkeeper – after a couple of seasons waiting in the wings for his first team chance the opportunity has finally presented itself following the operation on first choice John Platt.

BRIAN BORROWS – defender – signed for £6,000 just before the transfer deadline last season from Everton, where he had occupied a first team place for the early part of their Division One campaign.

RAY DEAKIN – defender – like Borrows, he is equally at home in midfield. Arrived at Burnden Park a year ago on a free transfer from Port Vale, whom he had joined from Everton.

WARREN JOYCE – defender – a talented allround sportsman who has played county cricket at colts level and was a rugby union schoolboy tourist. However, football turned out to be his first choice, probably egged on by dad Walter, a former Blackburn and Burnley defender, now Boltons's coach.

GERRY McELHINNEY – defender – another with a mixed sporting background. A former gaelic footballer and amateur boxer who was signed three years ago from Distillery. An aggressive player who just missed out on going to the 1982 World Cup finals with Northern Ireland.

PETER VALENTINE – midfield – one of the summer arrivals, who crossed the Pennines from Huddersfield in a swap with former Wanderers' skipper Paul Jones.

STEVE THOMPSON – midfield – only managed three appearances last season, all away from home, but has found a more regular spot this term. Has a powerful shot.

NEIL REDFEARN – midfield – made his debut last season as a 17-year-old, when he came in for the injured John McGovern. Another one with a fierce shot and a bright future.

JEFF CHANDLER – striker – a lively winger signed for £40,000 two years ago from Leeds United. Started out with Blackpool and has progressed to win international recognition with the Republic of Ireland, although born in Hammersmith.

TONY CALDWELL – striker – getting his chance in the Football League for the first time after catching the eye of numerous clubs with his non-league goalscoring feats with Horwich RMI.

SIMON RUDGE – striker – his running and chasing last season won over the fans and suggest he will add considerably to the three goals he scored in 21 appearances last season.

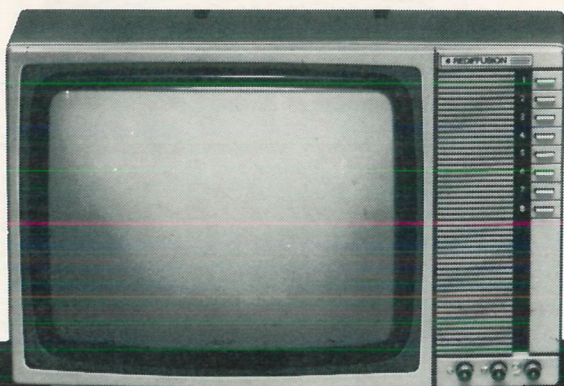
STEVE SAUNDERS – striker – robbed of his league debut last season by injury, he is on the fringe of the side again this term.

Bolton Wanderers : 1983/84 Squad



Back row: Brian Borrows, Neil Berry, John Platt, Simon Farnworth, Gerry McElhinney, Peter Valentine;
Middle row: Warren Joyce, Neil Redfearn, Steve Thompson, Tony Caldwell, Eric Stokes, Wayne Foster;
Front row: Charlie Wright (coach), Jeff Chandler, Steve Saunders, John McGovern (player-manager), Ray Deakin, Simon Rudge, Peter Nightingale (physio).

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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Compiler: ALAN LACOCK

Rovers and Bolton did not meet in League fixtures until season 1971/72 – and Wanderers have managed only one victory in seven visits to Eastville.

Bolton's last game here was an emotional occasion for Paul Randall. It was his first game back after his spell at Stoke City and Rovers' fans, who were paying the £55,000 fee, gave him a hero's welcome – and he responded by scoring both goals in a 2-0 win.

Bolton have played at Eastville twice before in Third Division games – Phil Roberts and Brian Godfrey were Rovers' marksmen in a 2-0 triumph in 1971/72, and Bruce Bannister was on target in a 1-1 draw the following season which saw Wanderers

regain Second Division status.

Rovers won promotion a season later – and Alan Warboys hit the winner in Rovers' 1-0 win when encounters were resumed in 1974/75.

Frankie Prince and Bruce Bannister scored in a 2-2 draw a year later, and David Williams notched both goals in another 2-2 draw the following season, which was the game in which Vaughan Jones made his debut.

Bolton's sole win at Eastville was in season 1978/79 – the margin was 1-0 – but Rovers' results at Burnden Park have been even worse.

Six of the seven trips North have been fruitless. The only occasion when any points were gained was the first one in 1971/72 when a 0-0 draw was secured despite Bryn Jones being sent-off.

SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	7	3	3	1	10	7
Away	7	0	1	6	2	16

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER



JOHN McGOVERN DESERVES RESPECT

Although I don't know a lot about the present Bolton side, I expect them to give us a hard game today.

Teams who get relegated are always looking to bounce straight back up – and, quite often, they achieve it.

Bolton, from the start they have made, look as if they could be in that mould.

They also have John McGovern as their manager – and that is another reason to respect them.

WELL-ORGANISED

I never rated John – like me a former Derby County man – a really great player. But I admired him as a fellow professional, who always gave of his best and made sure the players around him were well organised.

His playing qualities should stand him in good stead as a manager. And he also has vast experience of playing under Cloughie – so we can expect a few of the old Derby and Forest tricks from Bolton today.

Certainly Cloughie must have thought the world of John. They were together first at Hartlepool. Then John followed his boss to Derby, Leeds and Forest.

BRIAN'S OUR BEST MAN

THE LADS have decided to hire out Brian Williams as a professional best man after the outstanding job he did at Micky Barrett's recent wedding.

In fact, he was a late substitute. Mark Hughes was lined up but had to play for the Reserves against Norwich City.

All went well for Brian during the ceremony and at the reception – until the time came for him to read out the cards and telegrams.

As he stood up, he knocked drinks all over the cards. They were so saturated that the ink ran on many of them, making it impossible to read the messages and signatures.

Brian is one of the club's biggest micky-takers – so you can imagine the stick he's been getting.

We've decided Micky should get married every week. His contribution towards our win at Orient two days later was tremendous.

He has so much ability and such good tight control that when he is doing his stuff, it is impossible for defenders to get the ball off him.

– AIDAN McCAFFERY



BRIAN WILLIAMS
– could not read the
saturated cards.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

with ROBIN PERRY

SUB. WAYNE'S CUP HEROICS AT BOLTON

Wayne Jones had never scored two goals in a first-team game before his double dumped mighty FA Cup club Bolton Wanderers out of the competition in a fourth round tie at Burnden Park.

But the astonishing thing was that he was sitting on the subs' bench when that match nearly 14 years ago began.

His chance came when right-back Lindsay Parsons went off injured with Bolton leading 1-0 through a Gareth Williams goal.

Skipper Bobby Jones switched from his normal attacking position to fill the full-back vacancy and Wayne came on up front, forming a youthful twin spearhead with Bobby Brown.

AT EVERTON

Wayne equalised after 48 minutes and scored the winner in the 65th minute to earn Rovers a fifth round tie at Everton.

"I hit both shots instinctively," said Wayne, then aged 20, after the game. "I've been looking for something like this to boost confidence in my shooting – but I never expected it would come quite this way.

"I have been substituted twice before this season without being called on and I was not expecting to make an appearance at Bolton."

AN EMERGENCY

Bobby Jones did so well as an emergency full-back in the cup-tie that he remained there for the rest of the season.

The outstanding thing about the success was that the Rovers' team included ten home-bred players and two free transfers. And only three members of it were over 22.

Fred Ford was the manager who bravely gambled on youth. He said after the game. "At half-time, I told the players: 'A lot of people have come up to see us play. If we are going to go out, let's go out fighting.

"The way they responded showed that several young players grew up today."

General manager Bert Tann rated it as good a perfor-



WAYNE JONES – scored two goals.

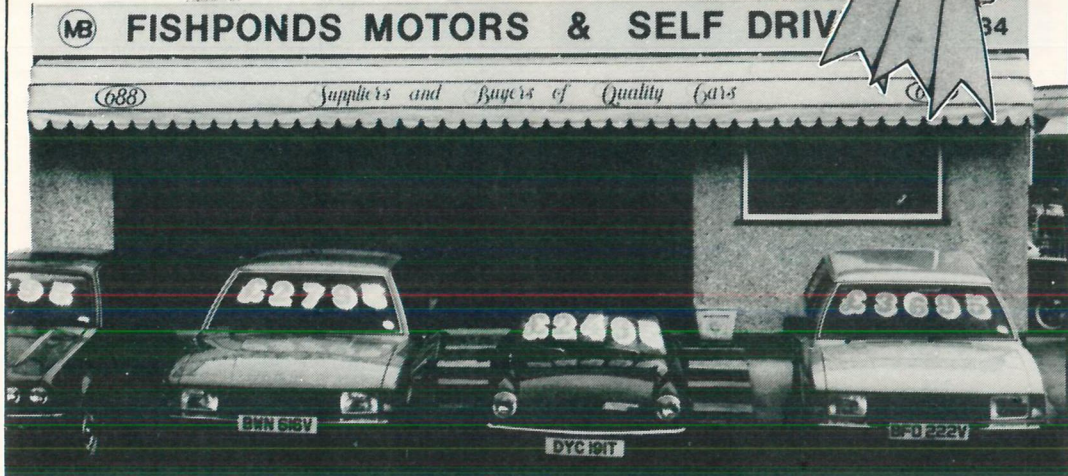
mance as any of the club's great FA Cup exploits in the fifties.

And he explained why he considered beating a Second Division team as big an achievement as crushing Manchester United and holding Newcastle United at St. James's.

"Those performances were by experienced players in a mature side. At Bolton we were, in the main, a team of boys – and they were magnificent," he said.

The full Rovers side at Bolton was: Larry Taylor, Lindsay Parsons, Tom Stanton, Stuart Taylor, Larry Lloyd, Johnny Petts, Ray Graydon, Vic Barney, Bobby Jones, Bobby Brown, Harold Jarman. Sub: Wayne Jones.

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TALKING FOOTBALL

Interviewer: Ralph Ellis.

BROOKING TO QUIT AT TOP

Trevor Brooking celebrates his 35th birthday tomorrow – and he insists it will be his last as a professional footballer.

The old skill, elegance and guile are still there – and Brooking, one of the few World class players England have produced in recent years, wants to bow out of the game remembered in that way.

Last season was to have been his farewell. After a career spanning three decades, and all at one club, West Ham, he had decided to give up the game and concentrate on his interests in a clothing company.

FRUSTRATING TERM

But then he was injured, and spent the rest of a frustrating term on the treatment table.

"It would have been easy to call it a day then, I suppose – but I think that would have been a very unsatisfactory way for my career to end," he says. "I wanted to go out in a good way after so many happy years, and that was what gave me the incentive to try to recover my fitness.

"I went out to Hong Kong for the summer, and spent the five weeks playing there which got me fully fit again. Then I came home and enjoyed one of my best pre-season training build-ups ever. Hopefully now all last season's problems are completely over, and I certainly feel very fit and am enjoying my football."

BEST START

The revitalised Brooking has given the Hammers their best ever start to a season – with five consecutive wins in the League.

"I think we've now got a very strong squad with a good deal of character running through the team – and cover giving strength in depth for every position. We began the season, for instance, with players of



the quality of Paul Goddard, Frank Lampard and Paul Allen in the reserves."

So could Brooking end his days at Hammers by adding to his haul of two FA Cup winners' medals? "It would certainly be nice – a perfect way to go out. But I've been in the game too many years to even dare think things like that.

"What we have got now is a team with the ability both to play the sort of good football West Ham has always been associated with, and to battle it out when the occasion demands."

FAREWELL SEASON

There have been many footballers who decided to have a farewell season – then carried on for more. Brooking is unlikely to be one of them.

"I think there's a danger to be tempted to have one more season, and then another, and then go to play another one or two in a lower division. I think I would sooner call it a day while I'm still keeping my standards high. I wouldn't want to drag on.

"I think to go into management would not be secure – so I shall be happy to retire, keep my memories, and expand my interests in my companies. I've always been closely involved in running them, and enjoy doing so – I shall be quite happy to make that my new career."

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EASTVILLE ECHO

A Round-Up of Rovers News

TWO MORE TON-UP MEN



Tim Parkin (left) and Phil Kite (right) have joined the rapidly-expanding group of players with over 100 appearances for Rovers to their credit. Tim reached the landmark at Bournemouth on Tuesday – and Phil does so today.

They join Mike Barrett, Tony Pulis, Aidan McCaffery, Paul Randall, Phil Bater and David Williams in Eastville's elite 'ton-up' club.

Comments Tim, who served his soccer apprenticeship with Blackburn Rovers and had a spell with Swedish champions Malmo before joining Rovers in August 1981:

"I'm very settled at Rovers, the family have settled well in the area and I am really enjoying my football. I feel confident that both my personal performance and those of the team will be an improvement on last season's. I'm longing to play in a higher grade – and feel we have an excellent chance of achieving that by next season."

Local lad Phil, who used to watch the team he now plays for from the Tote End terraces, did not expect to reach the milestone so early in his career.

"I'm very pleased to have achieved it before my twenty first birthday, for goalkeepers don't usually get the opportunity to establish themselves until they are well into their twenties. And I share Tim's optimism about our chances this season," says Phil.

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

Contrasting fortunes for three players - youngsters Carl Metcalfe and Adrian Morris have been promoted to the senior professional ranks on reaching their 18th birthdays, but part-timer Jeff Sherwood, declared surplus upon the recruitment of Phil Bater, had the disappointment of being released. Jeff rejoined his former club Bath City on a free transfer.

GOOD OMENS

Past history suggests Rovers might be in with more than a bit of a chance when they travel to Brighton for the first leg of their second round Milk Cup-tie on Tuesday (k.o. 7.45pm).

For the two clubs have twice before met in the competition – in 1970/71 season and again two years later in the days when the competition was known as the League Cup – and both times Rovers not only emerged victorious, they went on to enjoy giant-killing runs.

Rovers beat the Seagulls 1-0 in the first round in 1970/71 and went on to defeat Newcastle United, Norwich City and Birmingham City before loosing to Aston Villa in a quarter final replay.

Two seasons later, having disposed of Cardiff City in round one, Rovers crushed Brighton 4-0 in a second round tie and then humbled Manchester United in a replay at Old Trafford before being knocked out by Wolves in round four.

If this season's encounters lead to similar exciting Cup runs no one at Eastville is likely to be grumbling!

** STAND TICKETS (price £4) for the FIRST LEG are on sale at the office at the rear of the North Stand before and after today's match and from Hambrook Training Ground on Monday and Tuesday.*

** STAND TICKETS for the SECOND LEG at Eastville on Tuesday 25th October (k.o. 7.45pm) are also on sale – price £5 adults, £3 juv/OAP. There are special concessionary prices for season ticket holders provided tickets are purchased prior to 18th OCTOBER – Stand: £4 adults, £2 juv/OAP; North Enclosure: £1.25 adults, 50p juv/OAP; S. Encl./Ground: £1.10 adults, 50p juv/OAP.*

NEIL IS PLEASED

Neil Slatter returned from his latest outing with the Welsh under-21 team in Norway pleased with both his own and the side's performance in their 3-2 victory: "We played really well in the first half to lead 2-0 but were put under a bit of pressure in the second half," he reports.

Wales have two more games left in their qualifying group of the U.E.F.A. under-21 tournament – away to Bulgaria on 15th November and home to Yugoslavia on 13th December.

BETTER THAN ANFIELD

Praise for groundsman Jack Pitt from Wolverhampton referee Terry Holbrook who controlled our last home game against Exeter City: "All the pitches I have refereed on so far this season have been in excellent condition, but none were as lush and cushion-like surface as Eastville – not even Anfield!" he declared.

ATTENDANCES: DIVISION THREE

	Highest	Average
Sheffield United	12,441 (v. Preston N.E.)	10,575
Hull City	9,764 (v. Burnley)	8,115
Burnley	6,719 (v. Newport)	5,962
Brentford	8,042 (v. Burnley)	5,961
Oxford United	5,637 (v. Burnley)	4,848
Rotherham United	5,518 (v. Orient)	4,809
BRISTOL ROVERS	5,148 (v. Brentford)	4,734
Millwall	4,918 (v. Port Vale)	4,918
Gillingham	8,633 (v. Chelsea)	4,527
Port Vale	4,897 (v. Bradford C.)	4,421
Preston N.E.	6,661 (v. Hull City)	4,414
Lincoln City	6,686 (v. Sheffield U.)	4,329
BOLTON WAND.	5,592 (v. Rotherham U.)	4,156
Scunthorpe U.	4,406 (v. Bolton W.)	3,746
Plymouth Argyle	3,730 (v. Wigan Ath.)	3,510
Exeter City	4,742 (v. Walsall)	3,509
Bournemouth	4,163 (v. Preston N.E.)	3,460
Bradford City	4,401 (v. Sheffield U.)	3,422
Walsall	4,711 (v. Sheffield U.)	3,353
Southend Utd.	4,301 (v. Millwall)	3,231
Newport County	5,015 (v. Bristol Rov.)	3,109
Orient	4,206 (v. Bristol Rov.)	2,955
Wigan Ath.	3,071 (v. Bury)	3,071
Wimbledon	2,690 (v. Port Vale)	2,277

(as at 26th September 1983)

DIVISION THREE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull City	7	5	2	0	14	2	17
BRISTOL ROVERS ...	7	5	0	2	10	6	15
Sheffield United	6	4	2	0	13	4	14
Oxford United	6	4	2	0	14	6	14
BOLTON WAND.	7	4	1	2	14	4	13
Wimbledon	7	4	1	2	17	8	13
Orient	6	4	0	2	5	3	12
Preston N.E.	7	2	4	1	10	7	10
Rotherham United	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Wigan Athletic	7	2	4	1	7	7	10
Millwall	7	3	1	3	13	17	10
Burnley	6	2	3	1	10	7	9
Scunthorpe United	7	2	3	2	5	7	9
Plymouth Argyle	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
Newport County	7	2	2	3	10	17	8
Southend United	7	1	4	2	9	12	7
Walsall	6	2	1	3	6	13	7
Brentford	6	1	3	2	10	10	6
Lincoln City	6	2	0	4	5	11	6
Port Vale	7	1	2	4	9	12	5
Bradford	7	1	2	4	6	12	5
Gillingham	6	1	1	4	6	12	4
Bournemouth	7	1	0	6	6	14	3
Exeter City	6	0	1	5	2	11	1

(as at 27th September 1983)



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RALPH ELLIS'S

A to Z OF SOCCER

E is for

DUNCAN EDWARDS
tragically killed in the Manchester United Munich air disaster, he would possibly have become the greatest footballer England ever produced.

ENGLAND
in 1966 we were World Cup winners. Now, sadly, too often qualification for the final stages of a tournament is an achievement in itself. But the England team remains the focus of our

attention — and the side everybody wants to play for.

STEVE EARLE
the Fulham player who scored five goals against Halifax in 1969 — still the biggest haul by a single player in a Third Division game. He shares the record with Barry Thomas (Scunthorpe), Keith East (Swindon) and Alf Wood (Shrewsbury).

EUROPEAN CUP
Manchester United were the first English team to win it in 1968, two goals from Bobby Charlton inspiring a 4-1 Wembley win against Benfica. More recently English teams lifted the trophy six years running ending with Aston Villa in 1982.



BOBBY CHARLTON —
inspired Euro. triumph.

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*Jim Evans, Marketing Manager,
Bristol Rovers F.C.*



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JIM'S JOTTINGS



CENTENARY DINNER & DANCE

This was a superb evening enjoyed by all who went, and thank you for the sponsorship from AA Travel and Townsend Thoresen.

The Grand Hotel really worked hard to make this evening a tremendous success and the food was marvellous. Would you believe the Chairman and his wife each won large prizes in the raffle, but the Chairman's wife put the 14" colour television (that Toshiba presented us with) up for auction and it went for £240. Another Rovers' winner was Wayne Jones who who a side of salmon, and believe it or believe it not he would not have it delivered to Hambrook where we had the salad ready! Thanks to each and everybody who supported this function.

AGENTS PARTY AND CENTENARY REUNION

This very special event is to be held at the Mecca

(Studio) Frogmore Street on Monday December 12th, 8pm - 1am. All the players and ex-staff that can possibly be contacted will be invited for this very special and nostalgic function, and of course the agents (the department that no football club can be without) will all be there. A top show band will appear, and the cabaret is the one and only LENNY HENRY. There will only be a few tickets on sale at £4 each, so make sure you apply to Ian Booth, Gordon Bennett or myself to avoid disappointment.

TO ALL ICE HOCKEY FANS

Can you remember the ice hockey of the '50s - star-studded teams using their special skills to bring this exciting sport to British ice rinks? - well it is back, bigger than ever, professionally operated in custom designed rinks and Bristol Ice Rink can boast one of the best hockey evenings.

The newly formed Bristol Blackhawks take on Streatham Bruins on Sunday 2nd October at 7.30pm. Admission for this match will be free of charge, so if you have nothing to do on Sunday evening why not go along to Bristol Ice Rink and see for yourself.

Bristol Rovers have struck up a sponsorship deal with another giant (MECCA), hence programme advertising and Match Day Sponsorship in 1984.

— JIM EVANS
Commercial Manager



TIM PARKIN, selected man-of-the-match against Exeter City by the guests of match sponsors COMBEN HOMES, shows his golden boot award to Comben's Peter Sloper, comedian Charles Daze and John Stokes and Dec McClusky of the Bachelors.

(Winner of the Comben Homes lucky draw was Bronagh Murphy of 70 St. Aidan's Road, St. George, Bristol 5. She received a football autographed by Rovers' squad).

BRISTOL ROVERS THE CITY'S 1ST TEAM



ONE! City 'keeper John Shaw dives too late to prevent AIDAN McCAFFERY opening the score.



CELEBRATING!

The picture that tells its own story—the smiling faces of Steve White, Phil Kite, Archie Stephens, Phil Bater (partly hidden), Tony Pulis, Tim Parkin, Aidan McCaffery, Keith Curle, Paul Randall, Mark Brain, Mike Barrett, Brian Williams and Ian Holloway in the dressing room celebrations.



TWO!

STEVE WHITE hits goal no. 2 with this fierce drive inside Shaw's near post.

(Photographs by Club Photographer ALAN MARSHALL).

THREE!

What a winner!
— substitute Keith Curle's spectacular volley that sealed Rovers' 3-2 victory.



The annual all-Bristol battle for the Gloucestershire F.A. Cup at Ashton Gate eleven days ago produced a feast of soccer before Rovers emerged winners after extra-time to once again underline their position as Bristol's premier club.

Appropriately in this Rovers' Centenary year our victory clinched our first-ever hat-trick of triumphs in the competition — following the 1-0 success at Ashton in 1981 and 2-1 win at Eastville last year.

There is no doubt City manager Terry Cooper fancied his club's chances. He wrote in the programme: "My team has matured since last year and been strengthened through the arrival of players like Howard Pritchard, Bruce Halliday and John Kerr, while Rovers probably aren't such a force this season even though they have basically the same team as last year."

But those hopes faded as the biggest crowd at a Bristol soccer match so far this season saw Rovers greater experience make its impact — best illustrated by the fact that while both sides

put in nine goal attempts in the first half, Rovers mustered seven to City's four in the second half and seven to City's three during extra time.

The 6,578 spectators paid almost £9,000 to see the game. After deducting V.A.T. and other match expenses, that left a surplus of nearly £6,000 to be split equally between the G.F.A. Rovers and City.

One final point — although great play was made in some quarters about the comparative youth of the City side, the facts do not entirely bear that out. For the record the ages of each player was: Rovers — Kite 20, Bater 27, Williams 27, Parkin 25, McCaffery 26, Holloway 20, Pulis 25, Randall 25, Stephens 29, White 24, Barrett 24; City — Shaw 29, Stephens 23, Williams 20, Phillipson-Masters 27, Halliday 22, Economu 21, Musker 21, Pritchard 24, Riley 25, Crawford 29, Newman 20. That makes the average ages: Rovers 25, City 24. And it's also worth noting Rovers' average was increased by the absence on Welsh international duty of 19-year-old Neil Slatter!

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THEY PLAYED FOR ROVERS

Joint compilers:

Elliott Jackson and Mike Jay

Continuing our alphabetical series of pen pictures of the most prominent players that have graced Rovers' colours in the club's first hundred years.

BILLY BEATS (Centre-half): An experienced goalscorer who enjoyed considerable success with Wolves playing in the 1896 F.A. Cup Final against Sheffield United. Gained two England caps against Scotland and Wales in 1901 and 1902 respectively. Rovers pulled off a notable transfer by signing Beats in May 1903. He soon became a popular player at Eastville scoring 16 goals in the clubs Southern League Championship winning team of 1904/05. Left Rovers in May 1906 to return North to join Port Vale after 93 appearances and 46 goals.

CLIFF BRITTON (Wing-half): Bristol born, Britton soon attracted First Division scouts after making his Rovers debut in 1928. Sold to Everton in 1930 establishing himself by supplying many passes for goal legend Dixie Dean. He won a League Championship medal for the Merseyside club in 1931/32 and F.A. Cup winners medal in 1933 against Manchester City. But for the war his nine England caps would surely have been added to considerably. One of Rovers most famous players despite just 50 games for the club and 1 goal. A well respected club Manager after his career ended with Burnley and Hull City.

HARRY BAMFORD (Full Back): Bristol born and rated by many Rovers fans as the finest defender ever to play for the club. In his 12 seasons and 487 games he was regarded as a complete player, determined but completely fair he was never booked by a referee. Represented the F.A. on a tour of Australia in 1951 he was considered unfortunate not to represent England. Bamford was tragically killed in a motor cycle accident in October 1958 at the age of 38.

GEOFF BRADFORD (Forward and full back): Bristol born, Geoff started his professional football career comparatively late at the age of 21 from amateur football. A natural goalscorer, noted for his knack of scoring hat-tricks and despite serious injuries enjoyed a very successful career at Rovers scoring 245 goals in 461 games. Scored on his debut for England against Denmark in 1955 but was not selected again mainly due to injury. Towards the end of his career developed into a very capable full back. His 33 goals in Rovers promotion season of 1952/53 is still a club record.

ALFIE BIGGS (Centre-forward): Bristol born, Bigg's superb heading ability excited Rovers fans for 14 seasons in which he netted 197 goals in 424 games. Made his debut in 1953 and despite an unhappy 18 month spell at Preston in 1961 to whom he was sold for £18,000 the "Baron" (as he was nicknamed at Eastville) remained a popular player. His best season for goals was 29 in season 1963/64. Left to join Walsall for £10,000 in 1968 finally ending his league career at Swansea.

CLIFF BRITTON –
pictured wearing
Everton's colours.



BRUCE BANNISTER (Striker): Bradford born, Bannister joined Rovers in November 1971 from Bradford City for £23,000. Established a feared goalscoring partnership with Alan Warboys which became known as "Smash and Grab" which gained national publicity during Rovers promotion season of 1973/74. Scored 80 goals in his five year spell at Eastville in 202 appearances. Transferred to Plymouth Argyle in a player exchange.

N.B. Appearances and goal records are for league games only.

QUIZ CORNER

QUESTION: After leaving Plymouth Argyle, Bruce Bannister had a spell with which Northern club?

TWO FREE stand tickets for the next League match v **BRADFORD CITY** will be given to the first correct answer opened – send entries to Match Day Magazine Quiz, Bristol Rovers F.C., Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Bristol BS16 1JG to arrive by **SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER**. (Answer will be given in the Bradford Match Day Magazine).

ANSWER TO EXETER MATCH DAY MAGAZINE QUIZ – Peter Aitken was photographed wearing an old change of strip of white shirts, black shorts and red stockings on the very last occasion they were used – at **SHREWSBURY** on 29th **DECEMBER 1979**. First correct answer opened – **STEVEN DOWN**, 42 Poplar Road, Hanham, Bristol BS15 3BA, who received two free stand tickets for today's match.

ANSWERS TO MILK CUP QUIZ – 1) Rovers beat Torquay United 6-2 on aggregate in the first round of the Milk Cup last season; 2) Rovers lost to Swansea City 1-3 on aggregate in the second round of the Milk Cup last season; 3) Paul Randall was the Rovers player to score twice in the Milk Cup last season; 4) David Williams, Nick Platnauer, Mike Barrett, Archie Stephens and Tim Parkin were the other Rovers players to score in the Milk Cup last season.

Of the many correct entries received in the **MILK CUP QUIZ**, that of **GILL PEARSE** of 'Mo-i-rana', Mynyddbach, Shirenewton, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 6RW was chosen as the winner for her slogan:

"Rovers gotta lotta bottle because they're better than the 'udders".

GILL has won a Rovers season ticket and **FREE CHRISTMAS HAMPER** supplied by **DUNFORDS DAIRIES**.

IN RESERVE

DEPLETED RANKS

With first team calls and injuries depleting the Reserve ranks it was rather unfortunate that our last two Football Combination fixtures brought us against such strong outfits as Norwich City and Queens Park Rangers – resulting in defeats by 2-0 and 9-0 respectively.

Aug. 30 Brighton	A won 2-0
Sept. 9 BIRMINGHAM CITY	H drew 2-2
Sept. 13 FULHAM	H lost 0-2
Sept. 21 NORWICH CITY	H lost 0-2
Sept. 27 Q.P.R.	A lost 0-9
Oct. 4 Southampton	A
Oct. 8 LUTON TOWN	H
Oct. 11 Charlton Athletic	A
Oct. 19 ARSENAL	H
Oct. 22 Reading	A
Oct. 26 CHELSEA	H
Oct. 29 West Ham United	A
Nov. 2 IPSWICH TOWN	H
Nov. 5 SWANSEA CITY	H
Nov. 8 Ipswich Town	H
Nov. 16 LEICESTER CITY	H
Nov. 19 Tottenham Hotspur	A
Nov. 23 CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H
Nov. 30 CRYSTAL PALACE	H
Dec. 3 Watford	A
Dec. 6 Luton Town	A

Dec. 14 OXFORD UNITED	H
Dec. 20 Swindon Town	A
Jan. 18 BRIGHTON	H
Jan. 24 Birmingham City	A
Feb. 1 Q.P.R.	H
Feb. 8 Norwich City	A
Feb. 15 SOUTHAMPTON	H
Feb. 25 READING	H
Feb. 28 Chelsea	A
Mar. 3 Swansea City	A
Mar. 13 WEST HAM UNITED	H
Mar. 14 Oxford United	A
Mar. 21 SWINDON TOWN	H
Mar. 27 Arsenal	A
Apr. 4 MILLWALL	H
Apr. 7 Fulham	A
Apr. 11 Leicester City	A
Apr. 18 TOTTENHAM HOTS.	H
Apr. 24 Millwall	A
May 1 Crystal Palace	A
May 12 WATFORD	H

JUNIORS HIT FOUR PAST LUTON'S KIDS

Our Juniors recorded another fine win last Saturday when, recovering from an early one-goal deficit, they beat Luton Town 4-1 in a South East Counties League fixture at Hambrook.

On target for Rovers were: Martin Boyle (2), Darren Peacock and Dai Withers.

Aug. 7 WIMBLEDON	H drew 2-2
Sept. 3 Brentford	A lost 0-2
Sept. 10 Brighton	A won 4-2
Sept. 24 LUTON TOWN	H won 4-1
Oct. 1 Wimbledon (Cup)	A
Oct. 8 Oxford United	A
Oct. 22 Southend United	A
Oct. 29 SWINDON TOWN	H
Nov. 12 (Cup (2)	
Nov. 19 WEST HAM UNITED	H
Dec. 3 BRIGHTON	H
Dec. 17 Luton Town	A
Jan. 7 OXFORD UNITED	H
Jan. 14 Reading	A
Jan. 28 Swindon Town	A
Feb. 4 TOTTENHAM HOTS.	H
Feb. 11 Wimbledon	A
Feb. 18 West Ham	A
Mar. 17 BRENTFORD	H
Mar. 24 SOUTHEND UNITED	H
Mar. 31 Tottenham Hotspur	A
Apr. 14 READING	H



WELCOME – First teamers Steve White and Geraint Williams greet Rovers' latest associate schoolboy signings, SHAUN BAMFORD and ROBERT HEALY.

ROVERS IN REVIEW

No. 5 – PHIL BATER

DELIGHTED TO BE BACK

Phil Bater's transfer back to Bristol Rovers has brought just one major snag for the former Welsh Under 23 international.

His three-year-old son Geraint loves to watch his Dad play football, and was a regular visitor to Wrexham's Vetch Field last season. But now when he goes to watch soccer he shouts: "Up the reds".

And as Phil says: "That's not the best way to make yourself popular around Eastville!"

CAREER BEGAN

So while Geraint is being taught to change reds for blues, Phil is delighted to be back at the club where his football career began. Wife Helen and younger son Sammy, who celebrates his first birthday next month, are equally glad to be back home in Bristol.

PHIL BATER –
in action in his second
"debut" against
Exeter City.

"We never actually bought a house up there because the club found us a rented house, so it will make it easy to return," says Phil. "For the time being we are staying with Helen's parents, and it's been one big family party."

But it's on the field where the biggest incentive for a return to Eastville lies. "All the soul had gone out of Wrexham after two successive relegation seasons," he says.

"They were starting this season looking really only to survive. It's been a real breath of fresh air to leave there and arrive at Rovers, where the mood is the complete opposite. We're looking at the top of the table, and I can't see any reason why we should not be in with a shout for promotion at the end of the season.

"The strongest sides from last season like Portsmouth and Cardiff went up, and to be honest I don't think the sides who came down were in the same class. Obviously it will still be a difficult road, but we must have every confidence."

Phil has started his second Rovers career as a midfield partner to Tony Pulis. "I'd always been a full back before I left, apart from one or two games in midfield, but I played there quite a bit for Wrexham last season and enjoyed it.

GOOD PAIRING

"Tony and I make a good pairing – you need people in that department who can win the ball, and we both fall into that category."

Phil is also enjoying playing for David Williams. "It's hard to think of him as manager, I must admit. We have played in the same team right back to schooldays in South Wales, and I'm making an effort to remember to call him boss.

"But it is obvious talking to the other lads that he has quickly earned their respect, and I can see why. He's got things running well, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

– RALPH ELLIS



PRESIDENT'S CLUB NEWS

With such a successful opening to the season, may I straight away on behalf of all members of the Presidents Club extend our congratulations to all the playing staff and to the manager and his assistant.

The chairman and committee also hope that all our members, old and new find this 1983-84 season the best yet.

Members wishing to travel away should get in touch with either John Harding or John Amos; and those wishing to book guest tickets for home games should contact the writer.

Michael May is now in charge of fund raising and it is hoped all members will support his efforts, especially on matchday raffles etc.

The committee are already discussing a number of activities for the coming season and we will bring these to your notice as they materialise.

— VERNON STOKES

Today's Mascot



Today's mascot is 8-year-old MARTIN BELCHER of Standfast Road, Henbury. Martin is a pupil at Henbury Court School and his favourite players are Paul Randall and Phil Kite of Rovers and Gary Mabbutt of Spurs and England.

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SCRAP OFFSIDE

The time has come to scrap the offside rule!

After only a few weeks of the new season, I am convinced that is the only way to make football consistently entertaining.

I have long held the view that the law could be improved. What I have seen so far this season convinces me that we can lose nothing by getting rid of it completely.

My thoughts were prompted by a caller to a Radio Bristol phone-in. When asked if he found football exciting, one caller answered simply "No".

This was not just an ordinary non-sportsman speaking. This was someone who admitted that he used to go to games every week. He used to choose football in preference to anything else on TV. Now his wife wonders what is wrong. He lets her choose the programmes and goes shopping on Saturday afternoons!

GOAL-HANGERS

As I understand it, the offside law was first introduced to stop goal-hangers. Players used to stand in the penalty area to collect an aimless punt up-field. I cannot see any manager employing similar tactics now.

Coaches have developed offside traps to such a degree that I would estimate that almost fifty per cent of all attacks end with a flag and a whistle.

There is nothing worse than a game with too many stoppages. Rugby has struggled for mass support for this season. Now soccer is falling into the same trap.



I reckon it makes sense to scrap the law and allow forwards to go where they like. It would create acres more space in midfield and would place the emphasis on attack again.

Maybe I am being too revolutionary for the football authorities. I don't apologise for that. I just want to produce more goals because at the end of the day that is what the fans want to see.

PENALTY AREA

I have to admit that I doubt that it will ever happen, but even if the rule was altered a little it would help. What about offside only in the penalty area?

The Americans have been criticised in the past for fiddling with the game and its rules. At least they have tried their changes to increase entertainment value.

I suspect that those employed in the game will be horrified with my views. I don't expect to win too many of them over to my side. I do hope for the support of you, the supporters. Write to me at Radio Bristol and let me know.



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SEEN & HEARD

Celebrations Continued!



CHAIRMAN FIXED IT

Popular Phil Bater's return would not have been possible without a determined fund-raising drive by chairman Martin Flook (above).

Wrexham required a £10,000 fee and League regulations insist on a 50 per cent deposit, which would have stretched the club's finances to breaking point.

So Mr Flook contacted Mike Constance and Brian Baker of C.L. Electrical Controls and John Stratton of Gordano Carpets and persuaded their companies to donate £500 each.

Co-directors Tony Palmer and Graham Hole volunteered similar gifts from their firms – Palmers Fine Foods and Halifax Finance. And he asked the Presidents Club and Supporters Club – who had earlier pledged £500 each towards a loan player's wages for a month – to switch that cash into this project, and ensure virtually all the deposit required was available.



Rovers' Gloucestershire Cup celebrations ran over into the next day when Mike Barrett married pretty Louise Kennedy (photographed above).

Most of Mike's colleagues were guests at the wedding and evening reception. But the happy couple have delayed their honeymoon until the summer.

Mike had to train with the rest of the squad the following morning – and his form at Orient the day after suggested married bliss may have added extra sparkle to his play. His five shots made Mike Rovers' most positive attacker.

THE THINGS THEY SAY

(Some recent quotes from soccer personalities)

"The latest unpleasant noise in professional football is the squeal of outrageous over-reaction from beaten managers. Fining players, threatening players, publicly abusing players is not being bold, outspoken, courageous and honest. If anything it is silly, wrong-headed, dishonest and possibly a little cowardly. Everyone is entitled to ask: Who bought the players? Taught the players? Decided the tactics? Took the credit when things went right? Whose job is it anyway to motivate those players?"

— Daily Mirror soccer columnist FRANK MCGHEE.

"I don't want any fuss. It's not the Pat Jennings Show – it's more important that the team does well".

— modest PAT JENNINGS before the Northern Ireland v Austria European Championship match in which he became the first British goalkeeper to win 100 caps.

"It's always nice to beat City but to score the winner in such a fantastic game was extra-special."

— ecstatic KEITH CURLE following his goal eleven minutes after being brought on as an extra-time substitute had clinched Rovers hat-trick of Gloucestershire Cup triumphs.

Sixth Time Lucky

The triumph over City was particularly memorable for Phil Bater.

"In my previous spell with Rovers I played in five Gloucestershire Cup Finals and each time finished up on the losing side. This was the first time I had picked up a winners memento," he explains.



CENTENARY HIGHLIGHT

The Dinner-Dance at the Grand Hotel on 15th September – Rovers 100th birthday – proved a fitting social highlight.

ABOVE: Some of the V.I.P.'s: Barry Bradshaw, Mrs Shirley Bradshaw, The Deputy Lady Mayoress, Mrs Christine Flook, Martin Flook, The Deputy Lord Mayor, Mrs Carol Hole, Graham Hole.

RIGHT: Chairman Martin Flook shares a joke with directors Nigel Roydon and Barry Bradshaw, Football League secretary Graham Kelly and president Jack Dunnett.

BELOW: A group of former directors and officials: Harold Jarman, Bert Brown, Graham Holmes, Ian Stevens, Bill Dodgin, Alan Seager and Bobby Campbell.



ACTION REPLAY



EXETER BEATEN

Club photographer ALAN MARSHALL recaptures some of the action from the last home game against Exeter City:

LEFT: TIM PARKIN heads home his goal.

BOTTOM LEFT: ARCHIE STEPHENS leaps high to get in another header.

BOTTOM RIGHT: TONY PULIS tangles with their player-manager Gerry Francis.



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FACTS & FIGURES

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sat. Aug. 27	Newport County	A	1-2	5,015	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Williams (D)	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens* 1
Tues. Aug. 30	Bournemouth (Milk Cup)	A	2-1	3,473	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall 1	Barrett	Stephens
Sat. Sept. 3	Southern United	H	2-1	4,410	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens
Tues. Sept. 6	Brentford	H	3-1	5,148	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens
Sat. Sept. 10	Port Vale	A	0-2	4,308	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens
Tues. Sept. 13	Bournemouth (Milk Cup)	H	2-2	4,564	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens
Sat. Sept. 17	Exeter City	H	4-3	4,564	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Randall	Barrett	Stephens
Tues. Sept. 20	Bristol City (Glos. Cup)	A	3-2	6,538	Kite	Bater	Williams (B)	Holloway	Parkin	McCaffery	Randall	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Curie* 1
Fri. Sept. 23	Orient	A	3-2	6,538	Kite	Bater	Williams (B)	Holloway	Parkin	McCaffery	Randall	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Curie* 1
Tues. Sept. 27	Bournemouth	A	1-0	4,206	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Bater	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 1	Bolton Wand.	A	1-0	3,328	Kite	Slatter	Williams (B)	Bater	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 8	Wimbledon	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 15	Bradford City	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 18	Plymouth Argyle	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 22	Scunthorpe Utd.	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Oct. 29	Walsall	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. Nov. 1	Preston North End	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Nov. 5	Rotherham United	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Nov. 12	Burnley	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Nov. 19	F.A. Cup 1	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Nov. 26	Lincoln City	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Dec. 3	Sheffield Utd.	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. Dec. 6	Newcastle (Centenary)	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Dec. 10	F.A. Cup 2	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Dec. 17	Hull City	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Mon. Dec. 26	Oxford United	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. Dec. 27	Gillingham	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Fri. Dec. 30	Millwall	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. Jan. 3	Wigan Athletic	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Fri. Jan. 6	Southend United	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Jan. 14	Newport County	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Jan. 21	Exeter City	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Jan. 28	Port Vale	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Feb. 4	Bolton Wand.	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Feb. 11	Orient	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. Feb. 14	Preston N.E.	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Feb. 18	Walsall	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. Feb. 25	Scunthorpe Utd.	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. March 3	Plymouth Argyle	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. March 6	Rotherham Utd.	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. March 10	Burnley	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. March 17	Wimbledon	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. March 24	Bradford City	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. March 31	Brentford	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. April 7	Bournemouth	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. April 14	Sheffield Utd.	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. April 21	Oxford United	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Mon. April 23	Gillingham	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. April 28	Lincoln City	H				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. May 5	Wigan Athletic	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Tues. May 8	Millwall	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall
Sat. May 12	Hull City	A				Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaffery	Holloway	Pulis	White	Stephens	Barrett	Randall

	1983-84		Career-to-date	
	A	G	A	G
Barrett	9	1	106+7s	12
Holloway	9	2	40+6s	9
Kite	9	—	99	—
McCaffery	9	—	138+1s	12
Parkin	9	1	100+1s	7
Slatter	9	—	84+1s	1
Williams (B)	9	2	96+2s	11
White	9	2	59+4s	27
Pulis	7	1	116+8s	3
Williams (G)	7	—	95+2s	6
Randall	5+2s	2	156+10s	76
Stephens	4+2s	1	65+7s	22
Bater	3	—	242+1s	2
Williams (D)	1	—	327+5s	67
Adams	—	—	—+1s	—
Bailey	—	—	15+1s	—
Curle	—	—	25+2s	4
Hughes	—	—	75+2s	3

*Substitute used † includes one own goal

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AWAY TRAVEL DESK

For the benefit of supporters travelling to our next two away games – at BRIGHTON in the Milk Cup on TUESDAY (k.o. 7.45pm) and at WIMBLEDON in the Canon League on SATURDAY (3.00pm) – we are pleased to provide the following information:

BRIGHTON

GROUND: Goldstone Ground, Old Shoreham Road, Hove (tel. 0273-739535).

COLOURS: Brighton – Blue shirts, white shorts and blue stockings; Rovers – Orange shirts with navy pinstripe, navy shorts and orange stockings.

SUPPORTERS CLUB COACHES: Depart Eastville 2.30pm. Fare £5.50. Bookings at 468 Stapleton Road (tel. 510363). Please book early.

A.A. RECOMMENDED ROUTE: Leave Bristol via the M32 Motorway and at roundabout after 6 miles take 2nd exit signposted London to join the M4. Proceed along the M4 for 78¾ miles, leaving at Junction 10 to join the A329(M) following the signs Bracknell. At the motorway terminal roundabout take the 1st exit A329 and follow the signs Bagshott, then Guildford (A322) going forward to join the A321. At Guildford follow signs Horsham A281 and after 19 miles at roundabout take 4th exit A24 (signposted Brighton). Six miles past Horsham turn left onto A272 and 2¾ miles later at mini-roundabout in Cowfold turn right and at next mini-roundabout bear left. In 3½ miles join A23 and after nine miles at traffic lights turn right onto A2038 signposted Hove. After 2 miles turn left into Neville Road (A2023) and ¾ miles later turn left into Old Shoreham Road (A27) for Brighton F.C. Ground (97¾ miles).

WIMBLEDON

GROUND: Dunsford Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 (tel. 01-946-6311).

COLOURS: Wimbledon – Blue shirts, blue shorts and blue stockings; Rovers – Orange shirts with navy pinstripe, navy shorts and orange stockings.

SUPPORTERS CLUB COACHES: Depart Eastville 11am. Fare £4. Bookings at 468 Stapleton Road (tel. 510363). Please book early.

A.A. RECOMMENDED ROUTE: Leave Bristol via the M32 Motorway and at roundabout after 6 miles take 2nd exit signposted London to join the M4. Proceed along the M4 for 107 miles, leaving at Junction 1 (Chiswick Flyover Roundabout). Follow signs through Putney and forward onto the A3 into Wandsworth. Follow signs Merton, Wimbledon A218 into Merton Road for Dunsford Road and Wimbledon F.C. ground is on left hand side (121 miles).

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

It is my pleasure today to be able to pay tribute to one of the great stalwarts of the Supporters Club. Ron Batt retired from the Committee during the summer after 24 years service and I shall be making a presentation to him today as a small token of our appreciation of his loyalty and hard work.

Many of our members will remember Ron's work as Membership Secretary and his assistance with away travel arrangements before his election as Vice-Chairman in 1977. Two years later he succeeded long-serving Eric Godfrey as Supporters Club Chairman, a post he held until 1982. Ron's enthusiasm has always been his trademark and he is still helping us with match-day programme selling and frequently calls at the Club Shop to give us valuable assistance. As a further honour, it is the Committee's intention to nominate him as a Life Member at the next Supporters Club Annual General Meeting.

It is certainly a happy column today as congratulations are due to our Hon. Secretary Sue Porter who married Alan Williams last Saturday. I am sure that you will all want me to wish Sue and Alan every future happiness. I know that a number of the wedding guests were very pleased that Rovers match at Orient was switched to the Friday night!

We have had a very good response to our Mastermind competition which is to be held at the Sportsman Club on Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm. Our question setter Alan Lacock has been hard at work for the last few weeks preparing questions on a wide variety of specialist topics. Similarly, I am sure that the contestants have been getting down to some serious revision. So why not make a note in your diary for October 19th as it promises to be an informative and entertaining evening.

Our growing band of away travellers will be interested to hear of a new benefit that we can now offer our members. We have taken out an insurance policy with the National Federation of Supporters Clubs to cover travelling costs in the event of away matches being postponed at short notice. If a game is called off within six hours of the scheduled kick-off time, we shall be able to offer ticket holders a free trip to the rescheduled match. This will obviously prove useful during the uncertain mid-winter weather and is a benefit available only to Supporters Club members. Make sure that you join now, so that you can use our travel facilities, and don't forget our offer of a free trip to Hull if you go to fifteen or more away League matches by Supporters Club transport.

HALF TIMES

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DIVISION ONE

Birmingham City v. Leicester City	
Coventry City v. Ipswich Town	
Liverpool v. Sunderland	.....
Luton Town v. Aston Villa	.....
Norwich City v. Manchester United	.....
Notts County v. Everton	.....
Q.P.R. v. Arsenal	.....
Southampton v. Wolverhampton Wanderers	.....
Stoke City v. West Ham United	.....
Tottenham Hotspur v. Nottingham Forest	.....
West Bromwich Albion v. Watford	.....

DIVISION TWO

Brighton & Hove Albion v. Charlton Athletic	.....
Cambridge United v. Oldham Athletic	.....
Cardiff City v. Barnsley	.....
Derby County v. Carlisle United	.....
Fulham v. Swansea City	.....
Huddersfield Town v. Chelsea	.....
Manchester City v. Grimsby Town	.....
Middlesbrough v. Crystal Palace	.....
Newcastle United v. Portsmouth	.....
Sheffield Wednesday v. Blackburn Rovers	.....
Shrewsbury Town v. Leeds United	.....

DIVISION THREE

Bradford City v. Exeter City	.....
Bristol Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	.....
Burnley v. Plymouth Argyle	.....
Gillingham v. Brentford	.....
Lincoln City v. A.F.C. Bournemouth	.....
Millwall v. Sheffield United	.....
Preston N.E. v. Oxford United	.....
Rotherham United v. Newport County	.....
Walsall v. Port Vale	.....
Wigan Athletic v. Hull City	.....
Wimbledon v. Orient	.....

DIVISION FOUR

Bury v. Peterborough United	.....
Colchester United v. Chester City	.....
Hartlepool United v. Tranmere Rovers	.....
Hereford United v. Bristol City	.....
Mansfield Town v. Aldershot	.....
Northampton Town v. Chesterfield	.....
Reading v. Darlington	.....
Swindon Town v. Rochdale	.....
Torquay United v. Doncaster Rovers	.....
Wrexham v. Halifax Town	.....
York City v. Blackpool	.....

NEXT MATCHES

CANON LEAGUE
THIRD DIVISION

BRADFORD CITY

Sat. 15th Oct. (3.00pm)

SCUNTHORPE UTD.

Sat. 22nd Oct. (3.00pm)

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BRIGHTON

Tues. 25th Oct. (7.45pm)

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BRISTOL ROVERS

(Blue and White)

1. Phil Kite
2. Neil Slatter
3. Brian Williams
4. Phil Bater
5. Tim Parkin
6. Aidan McCaffery
7. Ian Holloway
8. Geraint Williams
9. Steve White
10. Archie Stephens
11. Mike Barrett
12. Paul Randall

OFFICIALS

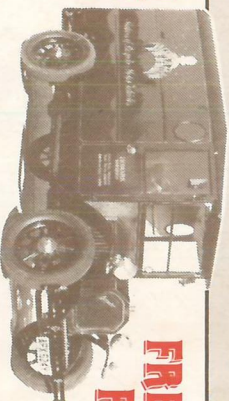
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(London)

Linesmen:
Red Flag – Mr B. Norman
(Stroud)

Yellow Flag – Mr J. Roost
(Bath)

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3. Ray Deakin
4. Warren Joyce
5. Gerry McElhinney
6. Peter Valentine
7. Steve Thompson
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9. Simon Rudge
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11. Neil Redteam
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